From: Chris H.
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 7:55pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it may concern,

  I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping the Microsoft company intact and my disgust at their competitors for using the government as a weapon to tear apart the company at the expense of destroying the industry and the public faith. Any further action against Microsoft sets a bad precedence in the business community at large. The companies that have set this in motion are using the term "Monopoly" to describe Microsoft's success and blaming them for their own failures.

 On a personal level this really hits home. I have been trying to start my career in the IT industry for a few months now. It's has been tough just trying to land an interview let alone trying to find a company that's hiring entry level programmers. Microsoft is at the top of their game and most, if not all schools, teach their students using Microsoft technologies. Why do they do this? Is it because of their so-called "Monopoly" power? I think not. It is because Microsoft has become the industry standard and the base of the IT industry. Most businesses use Microsoft technologies in their day to day business transactions. Why is this, a "Monopoly" again? The answer is no! Microsoft has consistently provided todays companies with quality and innovative products year after year. There are alternatives to using Microsoft products out there. Anyone in the IT business knows this and most chose not to use them. Is this choice based on the perceived, "Monopoly"? No, it is because what Microsoft offers is a better product. What happens when you keep chipping away at the foundation or base of a building? Eventually the whole building comes crashing down! Do this to the base, foundation if you will, of the IT industry and so too would the whole IT industry and the American economy! Please do not let this happen!

Sincerely,
Chris Higgins
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